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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

This week, I announced another feature of the District's Website that will increase the transparency into and accountability of government services – live data feeds that make up-to-date information about District agency operations and services available in an electronic, universally usable form. The easy access to the inner workings of the District government will empower residents and give them a stake in the city's progress. The amount and immediacy of the data is unprecedented among large city governments.

The live data feeds will provide residents who visit our Website with a current view of District services and operations that impact their daily lives. These measures allow us to track day-to-day progress – or problems – in our government. They give us immediate insight into what our residents need and want.

Our goal in providing this service is to offer residents and businessowners better access to fresh information about city services and crime statistics. The live data feeds represent a new way for government to work with residents to provide the highest quality of service.

The live data feeds, which were prepared in coordination with the Center for Innovation and Reform in the Office of the City Administrator and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, cover a cross-section of the District's operations including transportation, public works and health sanitation-related service requests, information about all vacant properties registered with the Office of Tax and Revenue, property and violent crime incidents reported by the Metropolitan Police Department and juvenile arrest information.

The live data feeds are available on the District's Website in two collections: Current Datasets, released on a daily basis, and Archive Datasets, stored in a weekly, monthly and yearly basis.

Users can get data feeds via three formats:

- Real Simple Syndication (RSS), which provides agency data in a summary report
- XML, which shows data in spreadsheet format
- Atom, which allows users to sort information

People interested in accessing the information should go to the District's home page, [dc.gov](http://dc.gov), and click on the featured site entitled "Subscribe to Live Data Feeds."



## AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human Services

Office of Tax and Revenue

Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Employment Services

Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Boards and Commissions

Commission on the Arts and Humanities

## LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and Tourism

DC Public Library

# "Change a Light, Change the World" Campaign Seeks Volunteers

I have issued a call to residents and businessowners to join a national challenge to save energy, money, and protect the environment for future generations with one simple action—changing a light bulb! The District's new Department of the Environment is joining with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to encourage residents to change at least one of their light bulbs in their homes to a more energy efficient bulb which is "Energy Star" rated.

We are challenging 1,000 District residents and businessowners to pledge to change at least one light bulb – the more bulbs you change, the more you save. I urge residents to replace at least one incandescent bulb with a fluorescent light or fixture that has earned the government's Energy Star energy efficiency.

According to the EPA, these pledges will save \$28,180 in energy costs, 282,000 kWh of energy and prevent 446,000 pounds of greenhouses gases from being emitted into the air. Energy Star rated bulbs use 1/3 of the energy of a standard incandescent light, last up to 10 times longer, and save an average of \$30 or more in energy costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

Change a Light, Change the World, is one of several efforts to help the environment by implementing government-wide efficiencies. During the summer, I ordered thermostats in District government buildings lowered. New government buildings be constructed with green roofs or include other environmentally-friendly initiatives. Additionally, I have boosted recycling goals for agencies and District households, and have asked that drivers of government vehicles use alternative fuels wherever possible.

To be one of the District Department of Environment's 1000 volunteers, residents may take the online pledge located under "Energy Tips" at [ddoe.dc.gov](http://ddoe.dc.gov).

## 'Reach a Higher Potential' by Saving for College Now

The rising costs of college may intimidate people into thinking they can't afford higher education for themselves or their loved ones. The DC College Savings Plan is designed to help everyone, regardless of income or investment experience, attain the tremendous opportunities a college education provides.

With the projected cost of a four-year public college education for a child entering kindergarten today topping \$200,000 (according to the College Board), the high costs of college tuition can be daunting. That is why it is important to start early when saving for college and the DC College Savings Plan is an excellent choice for anyone interested in funding higher education.

Opening a DC College Savings Plan account requires only an initial contribution:

- \$15 when a payroll deduction plan is set up with an employer,
- \$25 when an automatic contribution plan is set up through a bank, or
- \$100 when using a check to pay.

Earnings grow free of federal and state taxes, so they have greater growth potential over time compared to traditional taxable accounts. The tax-free withdrawal of funds from accounts like this one for educational expenses – set to expire in 2010 – was just made permanent via the Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law by President Bush in August. Funds invested in the Plan may be used at any accredited higher education institution in the nation and in some foreign countries, including community college, technical school, undergraduate, or graduate school.

Open to everyone in the country, the DC College Savings Plan offers extra benefits to District residents, including the ability to deduct up to \$3,000 (up to \$6,000 for married couples filing jointly, if both own accounts) in contributions to their account from the federal adjusted gross income reported on their District income tax return each year.

Calvert Asset Management Company, Inc., headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, serves as program manager for the Plan. More information about the DC College Savings Plan may be found at [dcollegesavings.com](http://dcollegesavings.com) or by calling 800-368-2745 (800-987-4859 for D.C. residents).

In addition to the DC College Savings Plan, D.C. residents may also choose to participate in the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) Program, the DC Leveraging Education Assistance Partnership (DCLEAP) Program and the DC College Access Program (DCCAP).

DCTAG provides grants to attend public or private colleges or universities nationwide. The grant pays the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. District residents can also choose to receive \$2,500 per year toward tuition at private historically black colleges or universities nationwide or at a private college or university in the D.C. metropolitan area.

DCLEAP provides grants of up to \$1,500 for District residents with financial need. For more information about DCTAG or DCLEAP, visit [tuitiongrant.dc.gov](http://tuitiongrant.dc.gov).

DCCAP is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). DCCAP provides counseling to all DCPS students and financial assistance of up to \$2,500 per year to DCPS students with unmet financial needs. For more information about DCCAP, visit [dccap.org](http://dccap.org).



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

This week, I announced that nearly 200 works of art representing the work of 100 Washington, DC-area artists – including artists from all wards of the city -- have been acquired by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) for the inaugural phase of the new City Hall Art Collection at the John A. Wilson Building.

With the unveiling of this new, permanent collection, the District is encouraging artists in the city to showcase their work. And we're sending a message to visitors that the city values art and artistic expression. By placing this diverse collection in the heart of the city at City Hall, residents as well as visitors to our city will be encouraged to include the Wilson Building as one of their Washington destinations. It's a good way to bring more visitors into our center of government.

The art was selected by the Wilson Building Selection Committee which included: George Koch, DCCAH Commissioner; Pat Elwood, Secretary of the District of Columbia; Betty Akers, Chief of the Ceremonial Services Unit, Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia; Jack Rasmussen, Director and Curator, American University Museum and Katzen Arts Center; Jacquelyn Serwer, Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; Alec Simpson, Executive Director of the Dance Institute of Washington; and, Ira Stohman, Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia.

Artwork will be displayed on six floors in the public areas of the Wilson Building, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Photo identification is required to enter the building.

Join me at the opening reception of the exhibit on Tuesday, October 31, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Wilson Building located at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. RSVP is requested at (202) 724-2042 or email [carolyn.parker@dc.gov](mailto:carolyn.parker@dc.gov).

## Prescription Drug Discount Card

Last week, the District of Columbia launched DC Rx, a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The District is making free DC Rx prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). The card offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The DC Rx card may be used by any District resident, regardless of age, income, existing health coverage, or residency status. The program will benefit low-income uninsured residents who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid or the Alliance, higher-income uninsured residents, and even those with drug coverage who have exclusions on certain drugs. The cards are accepted at 98 percent of the District's pharmacies. A national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies will also honor the DC Rx prescription discount card.

As the cost of prescription drugs continues to climb, I am pleased that we can offer the DC Rx card to help our residents address this increased health cost. With no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use, the card is very easy to use. I hope that people will take advantage of this potential cost saving device.

English and Spanish versions of the card are available at community health centers, WIC Offices, and other distribution sites around the city. In addition, Catholic Community Services, which manages the DC Pharmaceutical Resource Center (DC PRC) hotline to counsel DC residents about their best options for obtaining free or lower-cost drugs, will distribute the card to residents who call (202) 481-1430. More information and a list of card distribution sites is available on the Website for the DC Department of Health at [doh.dc.gov](http://doh.dc.gov).

There is no cost to District taxpayers for NACo and the city to make these cards available to residents. To date, more than 500 counties across the US have joined the NACo discount card program, including Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore counties in Maryland. Montgomery County was one of the first jurisdictions to implement the drug card in December 2004. The discount card is administered by Caremark, Rx, Inc.



## District Activities



Mayor Williams, Councilmembers and delegation officials meet with Cape Town Mayor Helen Zille, US Ambassador Helen La Lime and Cape Town city officials.



Mayor Williams, DC Councilmembers and delegation officials meet with Mayor Obed Mlaba of Durban, South Africa.



President Bill Clinton salutes Mayor Williams at Southeastern University's "Roast of Mayor Anthony Williams." The fundraiser was hosted by Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, President of Southeastern University.



Mayor Williams participates in the Spin to Win competition. Proceeds benefit the Capital Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

## Community News

- [New Technology Makes District Agency Data Available Through DC.Gov](#)
- [New City Hall Art Collection Highlights Local Artists](#)
- [Mayor Recognizes Excellence in Historic Preservation](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>10/27</b> | <b>"Moneywise" Consumer Information Fair</b><br>10 am - 3 pm<br>One Judiciary Square<br>441 4th Street, NW, Old Council Chamber          |
| <b>10/28</b> | <b>Island Beautification</b><br>8 am - 11:30 am<br>Kingman Island  |
| <b>10/28</b> | <b>Household Hazardous Waste and E-Cycling Collection</b><br>8 am - 3 pm<br>Benning Road Trash Transfer Station<br>3200 Benning Road, NE |
| <b>10/28</b> | <b>Lead Safe Fair: Healthy Homes - Healthy Children</b><br>11 am - 3 pm<br>The Reeves Center<br>2000 14th Street, NW                     |

